

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 25126 01 OF 02 101647Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----029364 101653Z /50

O P 101650Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5989
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25126

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

JIDDA FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, US, FR, UNSC, IS
SUBJECT: LEBANON: FRENCH REACTIONS TO MEETING WITH
DE LABOULAYE

REF: STATE 202055/1

1. IN COURSE OF REGULAR DISCUSSION OF LEBANESE SITUA-
TION ON AUGUST 10 WITH QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
THE LEVANT (DALLANT), SHE INDICATED SHE WAS PREPARING
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PAGE 02 PARIS 25126 01 OF 02 101647Z

INSTRUCTION CABLE TO AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE IN RESPONSE
TO HIS REPORT OF DISCUSSION WITH DAS DRAPER (REFTEL).
DALLANT GAVE US GIST OF INSTRUCTIONS, AS FOLLOWS:

A. FRENCH CONSIDER BEIRUT AND SOUTHERN LEBANON
SITUATIONS CLOSELY LINKED;

B. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE FORCE TO ITS DESTINATION IN THE SOUTH WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE SITUATION, ALSO IN BEIRUT;

C. FRENCH WERE TODAY MAKING A RENEWED DEMARCHE IN TEL AVIV "IN VERY FIRM TONE," TELLING ISRAELIS THAT, IN VIEW OF THEIR CLOSE LINKS TO THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THEY BEAR A LARGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION THERE. FRENCH WILL SAY THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE FORCE TO THE SOUTH AND "PERSONAL AFFAIRS," BY WHICH THEY MEAN STATUS OF HADDAD;

D. FRENCH WILL OFFER TO HELP ISRAELIS FIND A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE FORCE, EITHER BY HELICOPTER OR LAND OR COMBINATION, BUT WILL BE VERY FIRM IN TELLING ISRAELIS THAT IT IS UP TO THEM TO FIND A SOLUTION WITH THE CHRISTIANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

E. WITH REGARD TO A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO KEY ARAB STATES, FRENCH AGREE WITH THE IDEA BUT ARE "SLIGHTLY SKEPTICAL." WHEN FRENCH APPROACHED KUWAITIS AND SAUDIS AT BEGINNING OF JULY THEY WERE REPULSED, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THOSE STATES DID NOT WANT TO BREAK SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIANS. BUT FRENCH HAVE NOT CONTACTED KUWAITIS AND SAUDIS SINCE THEN, AND WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME,
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PAGE 03 PARIS 25126 01 OF 02 101647Z

FRENCH THINK IT MIGHT JUST BE POSSIBLE THAT RESPONSE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25126 02 OF 02 102140Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----033279 102146Z /61
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5990

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25126

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MIGHT BE MORE POSITIVE NOW. IN VIEW OF DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE SITUATION, SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO PRESS SYRIANS, AND POSSIBLY EVEN TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ARAB FORCE. THIS COULD EVEN BE SEEN AS BEING IN SYRIA'S INTEREST NOW, SINCE IT WOULD TAKE THE PUBLIC FOCUS OFF SYRIA AS THE COUNTRY WHICH IS SEEN AS MASSACRING THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS;

F. FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US ON THE RESULTS OF OUR CONTACTS WITH KEY ARAB STATES, WITH A VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE FURTHER COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 25126 02 OF 02 102140Z

2. WHEN DALLANT HAD FINISHED GOING THROUGH THIS DRAFT INSTURCTION, WE ASKED HER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FRENCH SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE MARONITE LEADERSHIP IN BEIRUT, SINCE THIS HAD BEEN A SPECIFIC POINT MADE BY DAS DRAPER TO DE LABOULAYE (PARA 8, REFTEL). DALLANT SAID THIS POINT HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED BY DE LABOULAYE (SIC*). SHE CONTINUED THAT CONTACT WITH THE CHRISTIANS IN BEIRUT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH, SINCE THEY HAD DECIDED MANY WEEKS AGO NOT REPEAT NOT TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE CHRISTIANS, AND TO WORK EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO REINFORCE ITS AUTHORITY. DALLANT SAID FRENCH CONSIDERED THEIR INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIANS TO BE VERY SLIM, TO THE EXTENT THAT FRENCH WERE TRYING TO INFLUENCE THEM BY WORKING THROUGH THE ISRAELIS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT FRENCH-ISRAELI RELATIONS WERE NOT IDEAL. FOLLOWING OUR RAISING OF THE POINT SHE SAID SHE WOULD CONSULT HER SUPERIORS TO SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO INSTRUCT THEIR

AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT TO SEEK CONTACT WITH CHAMOUN AND
GEMAYEL. BUT SHE REPEATED THAT THIS WAS DOUBTFUL AND
POSSIBLE INFLUENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE NEGLIGIBLE.
DALLANT PROMISED TO LET US KNOW THE FRENCH DECISION ON
THIS POINT ASAP.
HARTMAN

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